

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A system for performing an inventory of ~~an asset~~ a plurality of assets of a network, the system comprising:

an instance of an agent running on each of the assets and operable, in accordance with a set of operating parameters, to perform the inventory and to generate a respective set of inventory data based thereupon;

a collection server operable to receive the inventory data from the agents, and to parse the sets of inventory data according to a pre-established parsing scheme; and

a directory server operable to receive the parsed sets of inventory data from the collection server, and to store the parsed sets of inventory data for future reference.

2. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the assets is selected from the group consisting of: servers, workstations, and firewalls.

3. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the set of operating parameters include -

a periodicity with which to perform the inventory; and
an IP address of the collection server.

4. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the set of inventory data includes -

a type and a version of an operating system running on the asset;
a current IP address of the asset; and
a type, a version, and a name of a software application running on the asset.

5. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the agents includes a digital certificate operable to identify the respective asset to the collection server and to authenticate the respective set of inventory data.

6. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the digital certificate allows for encryption of the respective set of inventory data.

7. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the directory server stores the parsed set of inventory data in a hierarchical database.

8. (currently amended) A system for performing an inventory of ~~an asset~~ a plurality of assets of a network, the system comprising:

an instance of an agent stored on and executed by each of the assets and operable, in accordance with a set of operating parameters, to perform the inventory and to generate a respective set of inventory data based thereupon, with the agent having a digital certificate operable to identify the asset and to authenticate the set of inventory data;

a collection server operable to receive the sets of inventory data from the agents, identify the assets, authenticate the sets of inventory data, and parse the sets of inventory data according to a pre-established parsing scheme; and

a directory server operable to receive the parsed sets of inventory data from the collection server, and to store the parsed sets of inventory data for future reference.

9. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 8, wherein each of the assets is selected from the group consisting of: servers, workstations, and firewalls.

10. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 8, where the set of operating parameters include -

a ~~periodicity~~ periodicity with which to perform the inventory; and
an IP address of the collection server.

11. (original) The system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the set of inventory data includes -

a type and a version of an operating system running on the asset;
a current IP address of the asset; and
a type, a version, and a name of a software application running on the asset.

12. (original) The system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the digital certificate allows for encryption of the set of inventory data.

13. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the directory server stores the parsed sets of inventory data in a hierarchical database.

14. (currently amended) A system for performing an inventory of ~~an asset~~ a plurality of assets of a network, the system comprising:

an instance of an agent stored on and executed by each of the assets and operable to perform the inventory and to generate a respective set of inventory data based thereupon, wherein the inventory is performed in accordance with a set of operating parameters including a periodicity with which to perform the inventory and an identifier which identifies the collection server;

a collection server operable to receive the sets of inventory data from the agents, and to parse the sets of inventory data according to a pre-established parsing scheme; and

a directory server operable to receive the parsed sets of inventory data from the collection server, and to store the parsed sets of inventory data in a hierarchical database for future reference.

15. (currently amended) A computer program for performing an inventory on ~~an asset~~ a plurality of assets of a network, wherein the computer program is storable on a computer-readable memory medium and executable by a computing device; the computer program comprising:

a code segment for storing in a plurality of instances on said assets and for performing, according to a set of operating parameters, the inventory of the asset to

generate a respective set of inventory data;

a code segment for sending the respective sets of inventory data to a collection server;

a code segment for parsing the sets of inventory data at the collection server; and

a code segment for storing the parsed sets of inventory data.

16. (currently amended) The computer program as set forth in claim 15, wherein the code segment for storing the parsed sets of inventory data does so in a hierarchical format.

17. (currently amended) A method of performing an inventory on ~~an asset~~ a plurality of assets of a network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) performing, according to a set of operating parameters, the inventory of each of the assets to generate a respective set of inventory data;

(b) sending the sets of inventory data to a collection server;

(c) parsing the sets of inventory data at the collection server; and

(d) storing the parsed sets of inventory data.

18. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein step (d) involves storing the parsed sets of inventory data in a hierarchical format.

19. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 17, further including the step of (e) providing a digital signature to accompany the respective set of inventory data.

20. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 17, further including the step of (e) encrypting the respective sets of inventory data prior to step (b) and decrypting the respective sets of inventory data prior to step (c).

21. (currently amended) A method of performing an inventory on ~~an asset~~ a plurality of assets of a network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) performing, according to a set of operating parameters, the inventory of each of the assets to generate a respective set of inventory data;

(b) providing a respective digital signature to accompany the sets of inventory data:

(c) encrypting the sets of inventory data;

(d) sending the sets of inventory data to a collection server;

(e) identifying the assets and authenticating the sets of inventory data at the collection server based upon the digital certificates;

(f) decrypting the sets of inventory data at the collection server;

(g) parsing the sets of inventory data at the collection server; and

(h) storing the parsed sets of inventory data in a hierarchical format.

22. (new) A system for performing an inventory of an asset of a network, the system comprising:

an agent operable, in accordance with a set of operating parameters, to perform the inventory and to generate a set of inventory data based thereupon;

a collection server operable to receive the inventory data from the agent, and to parse the set of inventory data according to a pre-established parsing scheme; and

a directory server operable to receive the parsed set of inventory data from the collection server, and to store the parsed set of inventory data for future reference;

wherein the set of inventory data includes -

a type and a version of an operating system running on the asset;

a current IP address of the asset; and

a type, a version, and a name of a software application running on the asset.

23. (new) A system for performing an inventory of an asset of a network, the system comprising:

an agent stored on and executed by the asset and operable, in accordance

with a set of operating parameters, to perform the inventory and to generate a set of inventory data based thereupon, with the agent having a digital certificate operable to identify the asset and to authenticate the set of inventory data;

a collection server operable to receive the set of inventory data from the agent, identify the asset, authenticate the set of inventory data, and parse the set of inventory data according to a pre-established parsing scheme; and

a directory server operable to receive the parsed set of inventory data from the collection server, and to store the parsed set of inventory data for future reference;

wherein the set of inventory data includes -

a type and a version of an operating system running on the asset;

a current IP address of the asset; and

a type, a version, and a name of a software application running on the asset.